

James Clerk Maxwell : a Commemoration volume, 1831-1931. Essays by J. J. THOMPSON, PLANCK, EINSTEIN, LARMOR, JEANS, GARNETT, FLEMING, LODGE, GLAZEBROOK, LAMB. Pp. 146. 6s. 1931. (Cambridge)

Addresses delivered at the Clerk Maxwell centenary are here collected into more permanent form. No reader of the *Gazette* needs to be told that the joint-authors of this volume are men speaking with authority. All that is here necessary is some slight indication of the scope of each contribution.

Sir J. J. Thompson's contribution, the longest in the book, is a short sketch of Maxwell's life, with special reference to the development of his electrical researches. Professor Planck deals with Maxwell's influence on theoretical physics in Germany, Professor Einstein with his influence on the conception of physical reality. Sir Joseph Larmor's essay, entitled "The Scientific Environment of Clerk Maxwell", relates the brilliant achievements of recent days to "a purely intellectual lead, flowing largely from the genius of Clerk Maxwell". Sir James Jeans writes on Maxwell's method, William Garnett on his laboratory, Sir Horace Lamb on his lecturing. Sir Ambrose Fleming and Sir R. T. Glazebrook both contribute memories of early work in the Cavendish Laboratory, while Sir Oliver Lodge fittingly writes on Maxwell and wireless telegraphy.

The essays in this volume—and, we would add as an inevitable companion, the Rede lecture of 1923 delivered in Cambridge by Lorentz—are tributes worthy of the man whose work inspired them.

T. A. A. B.